

Case 2598

***Ictiobus* Rafinesque, 1820 (Osteichthyes, Cypriniformes) : proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the buffalofish generic name *Ictiobus* Rafinesque, 1820, by the suppression of the unused senior synonym *Amblodon* Rafinesque, 1819.

1. Rafinesque (1819, p. 421) proposed the genus *Amblodon* with two species from the Ohio River, *A. bubalus* (Rafinesque, 1818, p. 355) and the new *A. niger*, without type designation. Jordan & Evermann (1896, p. 163) regarded *Amblodon bubalus* as type species of *Amblodon*, a view with which we concur.

2. *Amblodon*, as proposed, is complex (Jordan 1917, p. 110). Rafinesque (1819, p. 421) named it for the 'Mâchoire inférieure pavée de dents osseuses serrées, arrondies, à couronne plate, inégales.' The remainder of his brief description applies to catostomid fishes, 'différent du genre *Catostomus*,' known as 'Buffaloe-fish.' Soon thereafter Rafinesque himself (1820, p. 55) recognised the complexity. 'I had called it *Amblodon bubalus* . . . having been misled by the common mistake which ascribed to it the teeth of the *Amblodon grunniens*; but it is a real *Catostomus*, without any such teeth.' Thus, he retained the name *Amblodon*, applying it to *grunniens* (*op. cit.*, p. 24) in substitution for *Aplodinotus*. Subsequent workers, however, have customarily employed *Aplodinotus grunniens* for the freshwater drum, the grunting perch or bubbler of Rafinesque (1820).

3. Rafinesque (June 1820, p. '299' [i.e. 301] in *The Western Review and Miscellaneous Magazine*) proposed the subgenus *Ictiorus* [sic] (within *Catostomus*) for the species *Catostomus bubalus* Rafinesque (1818, p. 355), (previously mistakenly in the genus *Amblodon*), which he knew at first hand, and *niger* Rafinesque (1819, p. 421), known to him only from secondhand information received from Audubon (Rafinesque, 1820, p. 56).

4. In December 1820 parts of the three volumes of *The Western Review* were printed as *Ichthyologia Ohiensis*, and *Ictiobus* [sic], an intended correction for *Ictiorus*, appeared on p. 55 and p. 89 (index). *Ictiobus* is therefore an incorrect subsequent spelling, but it has been used without exception as the valid name of this genus and to revert to *Ictiorus* would not be in the interest of stability. The type species is *bubalus* by subsequent designation of Agassiz (1854, p. 354).

5. The catostomid genus currently known as *Ictiobus* includes three or more species; the geographic range extends from the southern part of the Great Lakes to northern Guatemala. The species are relatively large, are often common, enter into commercial fisheries, especially in the Mississippi basin, and have been known, at least in part, under the name *Ictiobus* (or its unjustified emendation, *Ichthyobus*) since the time of Rafinesque.

6. *Amblodon* (1819) antedates *Ictiobus* (1820), and the respective type species of both nominal genera, *Amblodon bubalus* and *Catostomus bubalus*, apply to the same taxon. Strict application of the rules of nomenclature would necessitate replacement of the familiar *Ictiobus* by *Amblodon*, unused for over a century and founded on a complex.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers:
 - (a) to suppress the generic name *Amblodon* Rafinesque 1819, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (b) to rule that the correct original spelling of the generic name *Ictiorus* Rafinesque, 1820 is deemed to be *Ictiobus*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Ictiobus* Rafinesque, 1820 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation of Agassiz (1854) *Catostomus bubalus* Rafinesque, 1818;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *bubalus* Rafinesque, 1818, as published in the binomen *Catostomus bubalus* (specific name of the type species of *Ictiobus* Rafinesque, 1820);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Amblodon* Rafinesque, 1819, as suppressed in (1) above.

References

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